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THURSDAY
MAY 28, 1953

At about 3:00 o'clock this morning, Paul Reynaud's try for investiture was thwarted by an adverse vote. I thought his speech was excellent. He had told the Parliament [redacted] he did not propose to present a Cabinet for its consideration unless they would agree to a constitutional reform along the general lines of making the Parliament subject to dissolution if the Executive fell. This, of course, is the one thing [redacted] it would be most important to establish in French constitutional procedure. Almost all party leaders realize this and know that the lack of it is the root cause of French political instability, but the Parliamentarians are not yet willing to surrender their prerogatives in this respect. The result of the turn-down of Reynaud is to worsen an already critical situation.

Bill Tyler came to see me this morning; [redacted] he is much discouraged by what Reynaud justly termed the failure of the Parliament to face its responsibilities.

Van Starkenborgh called me to say [redacted] he had been in contact with his Government and [redacted] the Dutch Parliament was following its normal procedures leading toward ratification of EDC regardless of the French crisis. He added that his people were thoroughly disgusted with French political maneuverings and weakness.

André de Staercke came to see me and told me of a conversation he had had yesterday with Van Zeeland which was favorable to the prospects of EDC ratification in Belgium. He has decided to accept [redacted] designation as Chief of the Belgian Delegation to the EDC Conference in Rome.

André Visson of Reader's Digest, who has just arrived, paid a call on me and we talked of a great many things, including naturally the instability of the parliaments and cantankerousness of the United States Congress.

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Jean Monnet telephoned me from New York and I arranged to have breakfast with him on Monday morning at The Brook Club.

Dirk Spierenberg and Mr. Wellenstin stopped to see me to go over what they proposed to say at the Washington meetings. They are leaving tonight by air to join Monnet in New York.

Mr. Matlock came over from SRE to show me a draft of Bill Draper's farewell comments on European integration, which presumably he will present to the authorities in Washington.

We had for dinner tonight the Geoffrey Parsons, Jrs. and Sr., and Ambassador and Mrs. Fred Anderson.

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